1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF12 North China AF12

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1a',
Sociological Background

GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING

131 Immediately before the Peking regime abolished regional administrative organs in the summer of 1954, the North China Region consisted of two provinces -- Hopei and Shansi. Wedged between the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and the northeastern provinces to the north and Shantung and Honan provinces to the south, this region spans six degrees of latitude (36°-42°N), and nine degrees of longitude (110°-119°E). To the west, it borders on Shensi Province, and to the east, the Gulf of Pohai provides it with access to the sea. The area is approximately 332,000 square kilometers (129,000 sq. mi.) only 3.3 per cent of China's total land territory, with a population of over fifty-five million (9.6 per cent of the total Chinese populace).

161 The population density of North China as a whole is about 167 persons per square kilometer (439 per sq. mi.). But in areas like the Hai River estuary, including Tientsin, Peking, and its vicinity, the various population concentrations at the center of the famous North China Plain, and the Taiyuan high basin on the Shansi plateau, there are over five hundred persons to each square kilometer (1,316 per sq. mi.) of land. On the other hand, there are less than twenty people per square mile in Northwest Shansi.[1]

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[1] Chou Sung-k'ang, Shan-hsi [Shansi], Shanghai, Chung-hua shu-chü, 1939, p. 70.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF12 North China AF12

101 The term "North China" has been used to refer to a region in the northern part of China which has been varyingly defined at different times. Before the Communist ascent to power, North China was most commonly understood to comprise five provinces, these of Hopei, Shantung, Shansi, Suiyuan, and Chahar. Between 1949 and 1952 the Peking regime continued to employ the term "North China" to describe the five northern provinces which, however, excluded Shantung and in its place included a new province called P'ing-yüan created out of parts of Shantung, Hopei, and Honan provinces. During 1952-54, Chahar, Suiyuan, and P'ing-yüan provinces were abolished and their territories divided. Suiyuan and a large portion of Chahar were incorporated in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. The remainder of Chahar went to Hopei. P'ing-yüan Province underwent a three-way split; each of the three parts was restored to the province from which the part had been carved. As a result, the North China Region after January 1954 included only two provinces, Hopei and Shansi, with their boundaries roughly in agreement with the pre-Communist provincial lines of demarcation. The northeastern boundary of the region is an exception. There, a sizable area has been gained from the former provinces of Chahar and Jehol. Thus Hopei Province today is considerably larger than it was in the 1930's.

A resolution to abolish Jehol Province and divide its territory among the Mogolia Autonomous

1:Stanford U. S-4. 5 1956 AF12 North China AF12

101 Region, Liaoning Province, and Hopei Province was passed during the closing sessions of the People's Congress in Peking toward the end of July, 1955. The references to North China in this chapter, however, are based on the 1954 information because the details of the latest change are still unavailable.[2]

TOPOGRAPHY

133 This region is composed of an impressive tableland in the west and a huge alluvial plain in the east. The difference in elevation between the two halves amounts to about 2,000 meters (6,500 ft.).

1. Mountains: The mountains on the northern border of this region are an extension of the great Yin Shan Range that forms a natural line of demarcation which used to separate the Chinese from the Mongols. These mountains are, from west to east, the Ta-hai-t'o, the Chün-tu, and the Yen-shan, each about 1,000 meters (3,280 ft.) in height and all having steep southern approaches. Rising an average of 2,000 meters (6,560 ft.) in the middle and extending throughout the region is the T'ai-hang Range which marks the end of the 133 Northwest China highland. At the northern tip of 778 788

[2] For details of political subdivisions as of 1954, see the chapter on Structure of Government.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF12 North China
~~AF12~~ AF/2

631 September 1950. The department was finally succeeded at the end of 1951 by a North China Administrative Committee.[1] It was the first to be dissolved in 1954 when the whole regional administrative system was abandoned. At that time, the North China Region consisted of only Shansi and Hopei. (On the boundary changes of these provinces and of the North China Region, see the chapter on Geographic Setting.)

● 101 Historically and culturally Hopei and Shansi constitute the core of what Chinese for centuries have thought of as "North China." The designation embraces these two provinces and the provinces which border on them to the west, south, and east -- respectively, Shensi, Honan, and Shantung. In this sense, "North China" is more than a geographical distinction: It marks out the cradle of Chinese civilization and an area of common historical development during most of three thousand years.

631 However, Shansi's topography makes it an integral unit strong in natural defenses,

1. See the comment by the American editors of Current Background, Hong Kong, American Consulate General, 161, pp. 1-2.

101, 133, 361, 487

A	B	C	D
E	F	G	H
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Chart of position of sections of end map.

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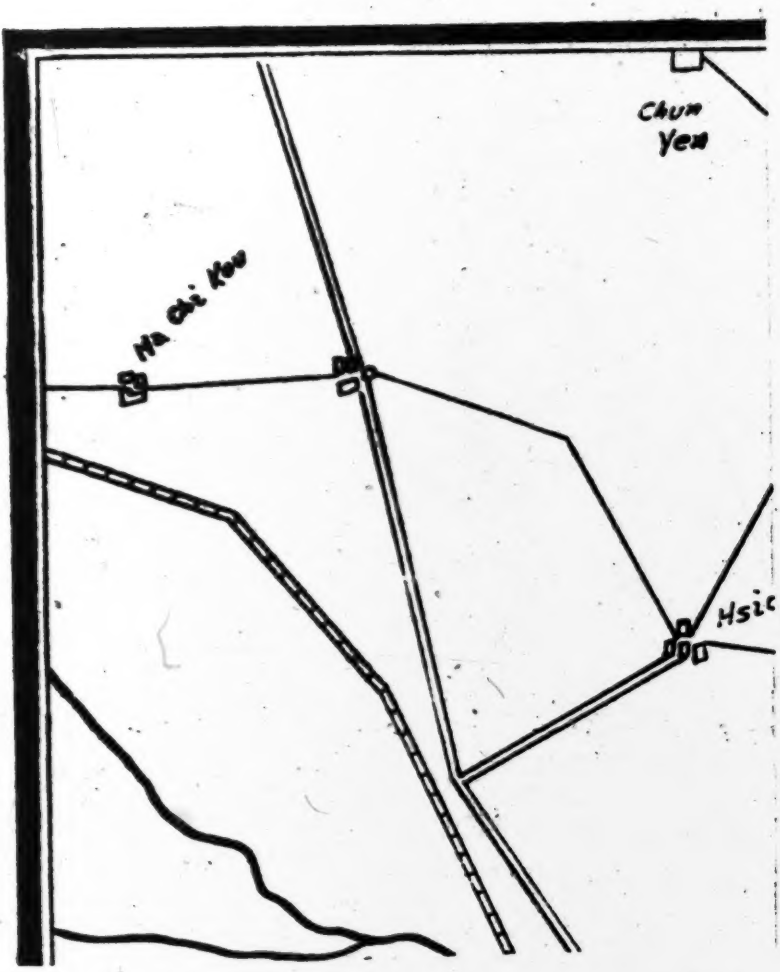

[End flap Map A]

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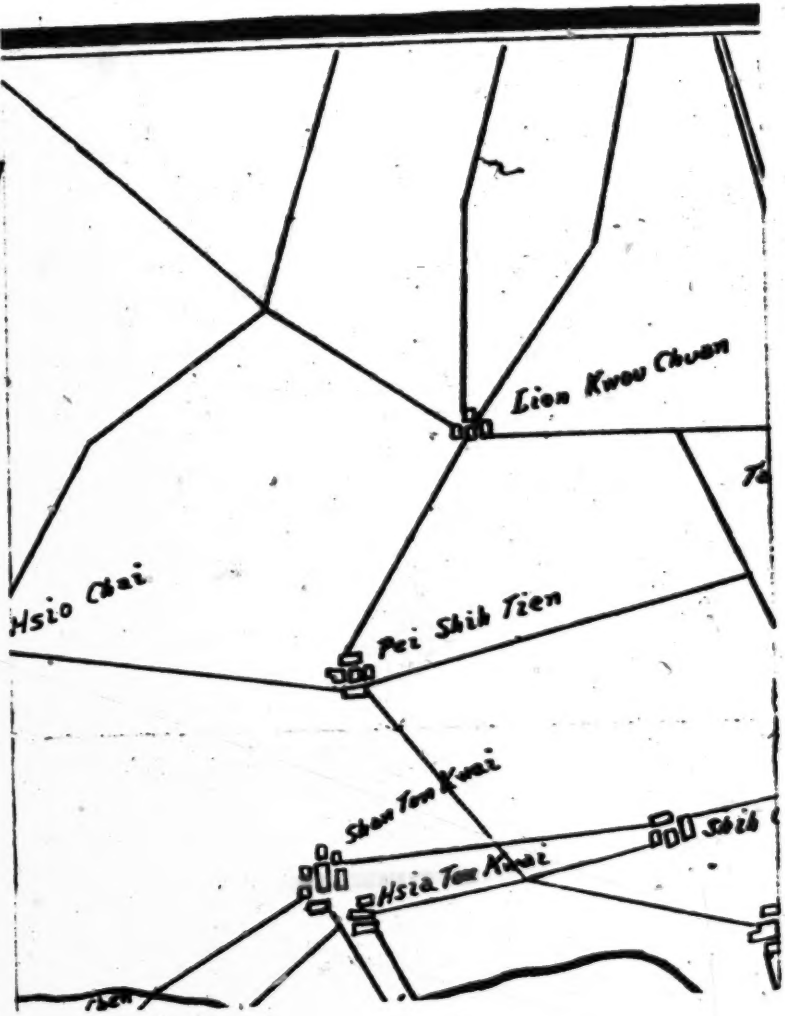

[End flap Map B]

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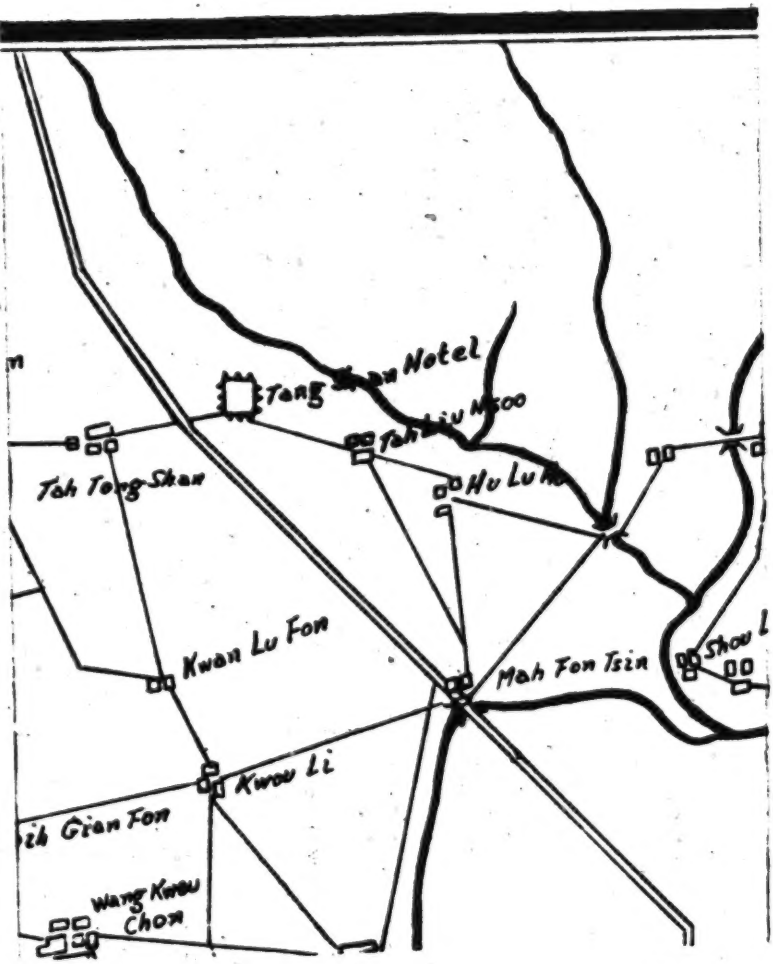

[End Flap map C]

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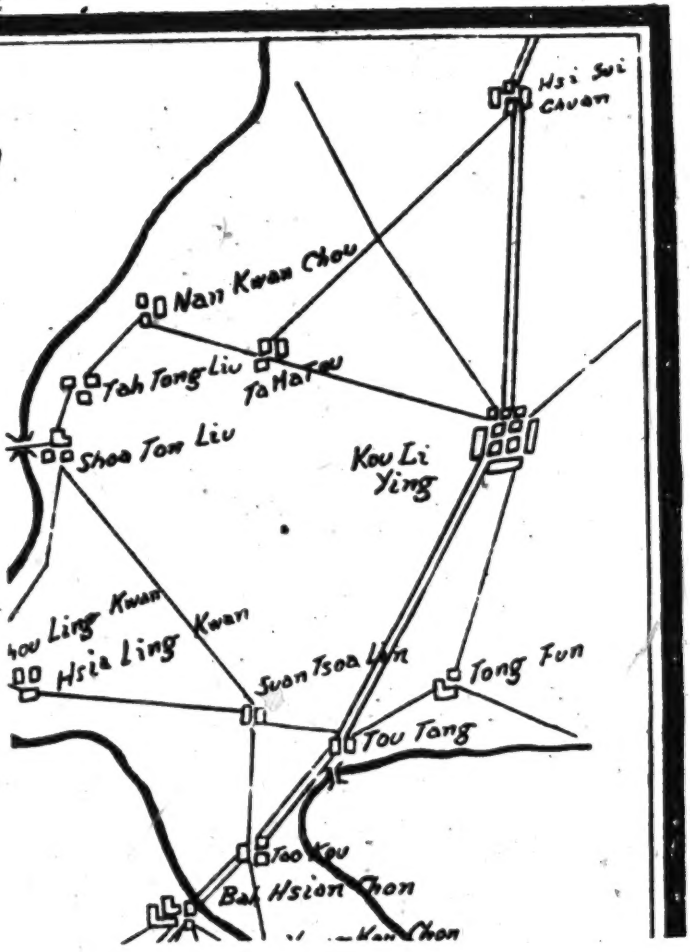

[End Flap map D]

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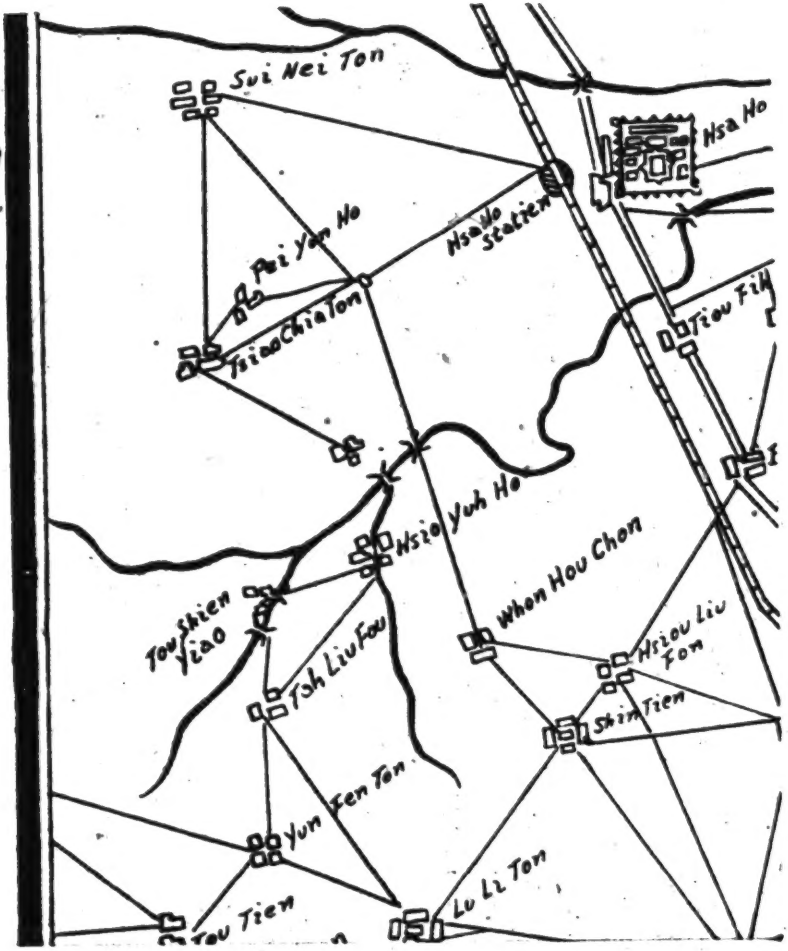

[End Flap map E]

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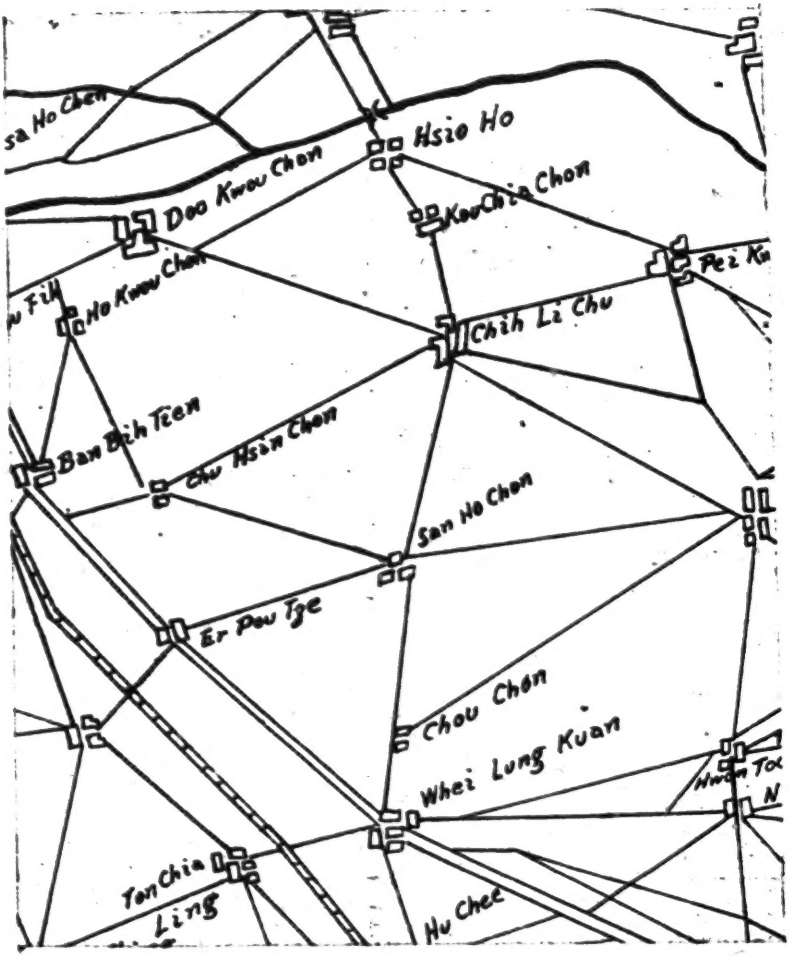

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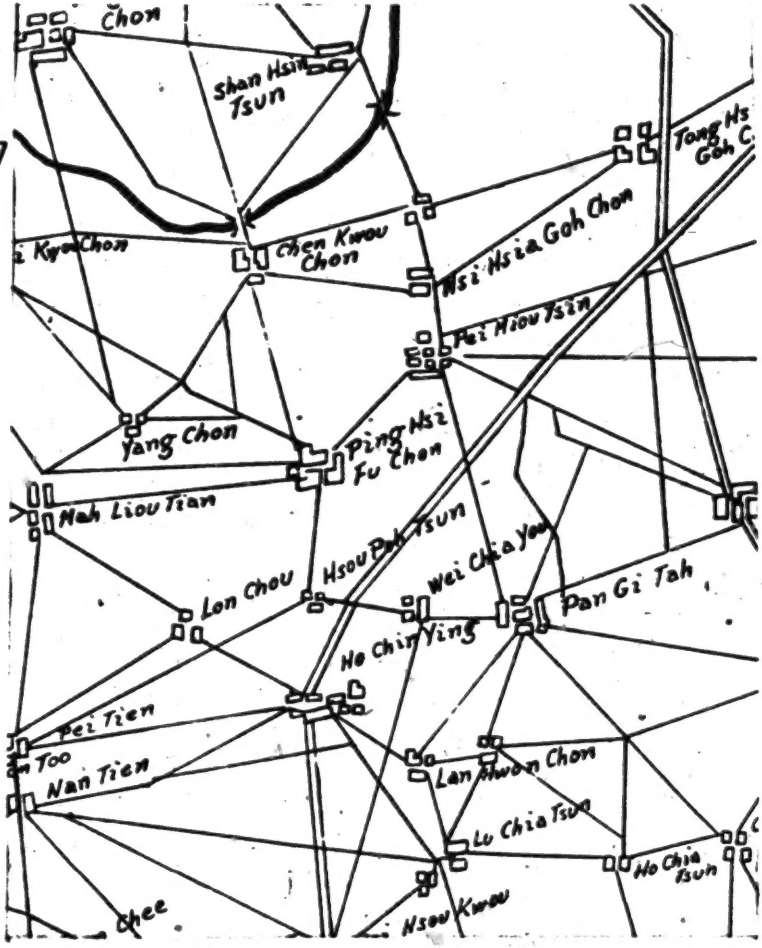

[End Flap map G]

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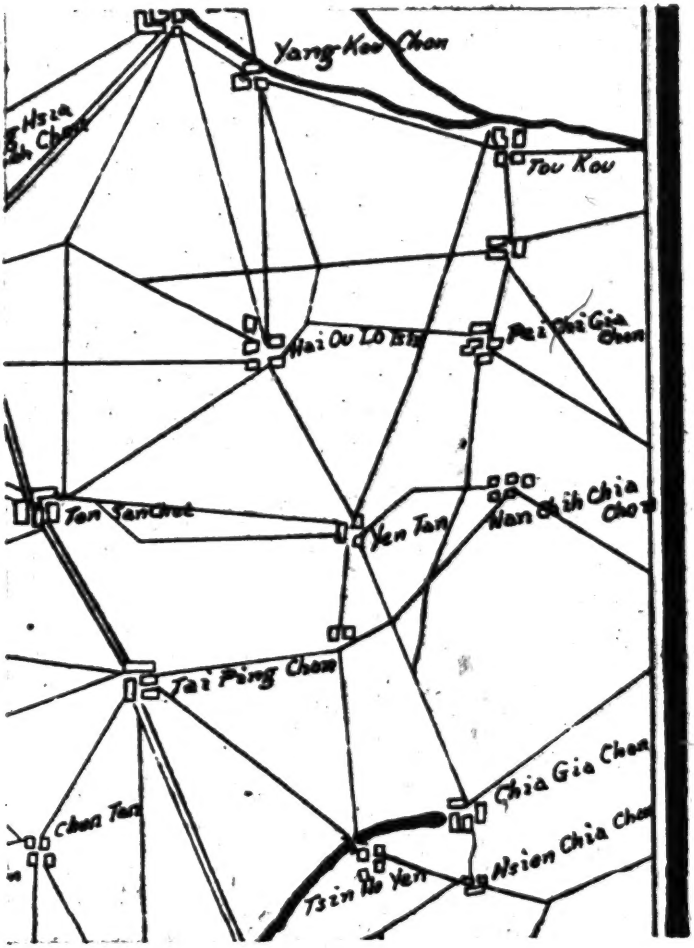

[End Flap. Map H]

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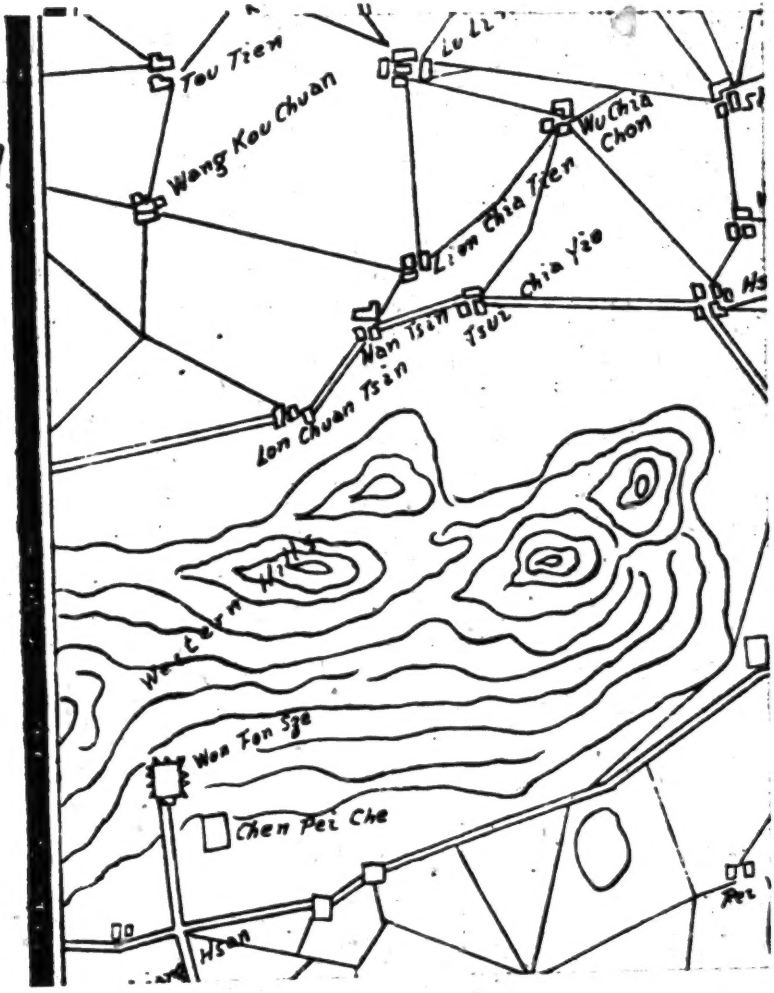

[End Flap Map I]

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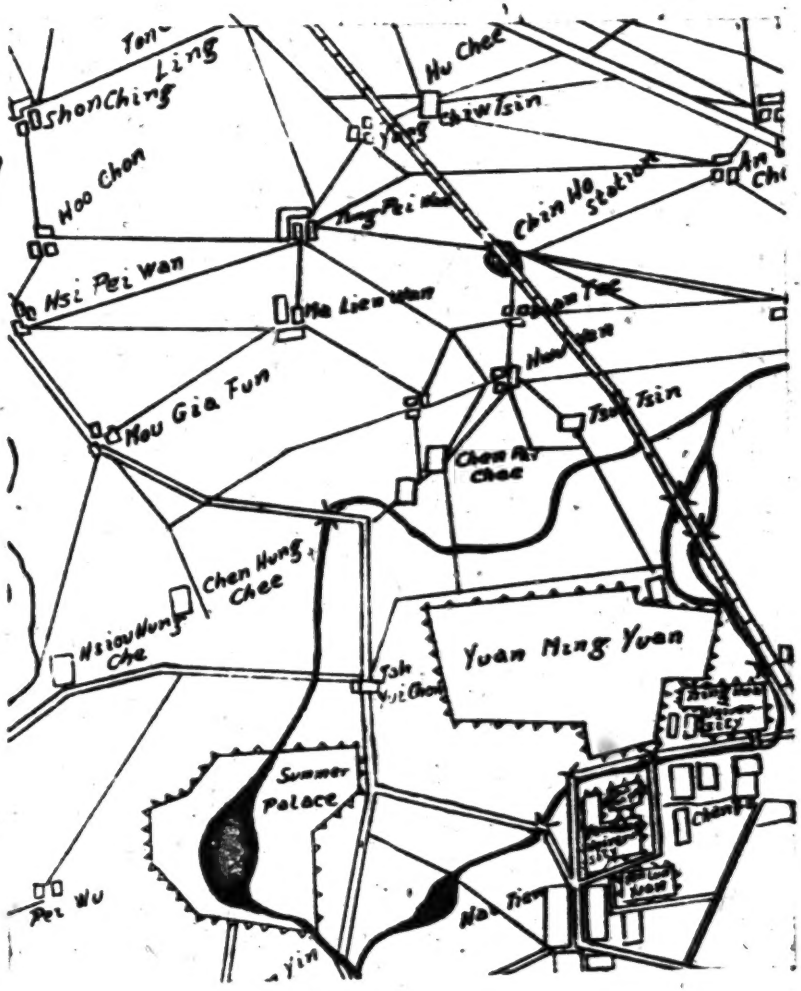

[End Flap Map J]

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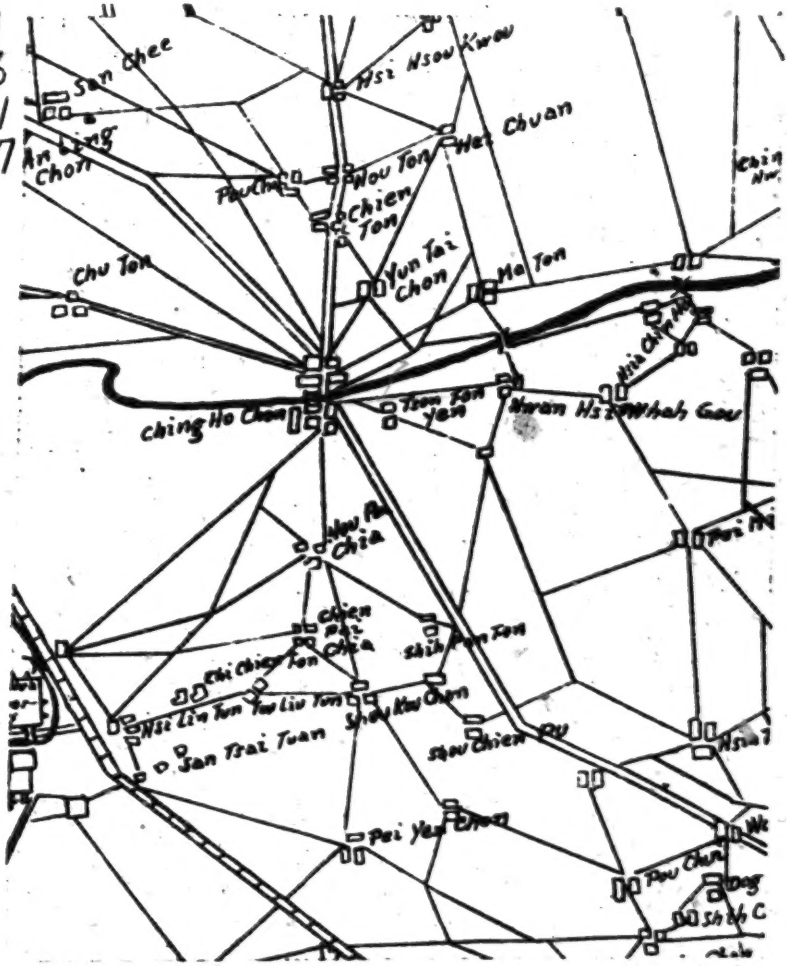

[End Flap Map K]

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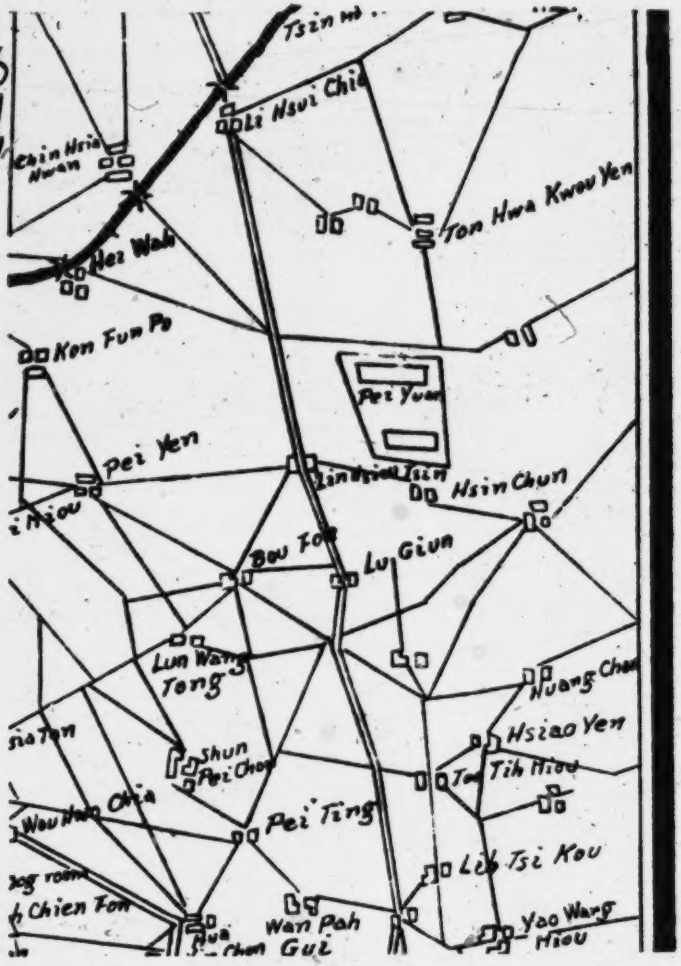

[End Flap map L]

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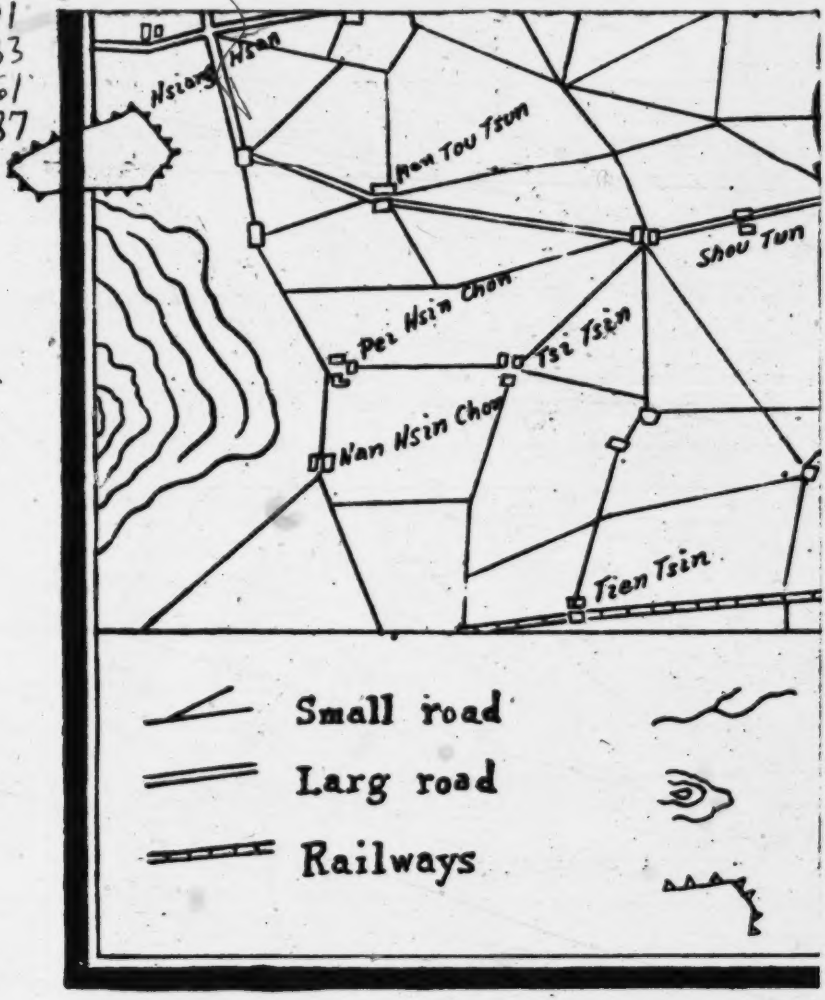

[End Flap map M]

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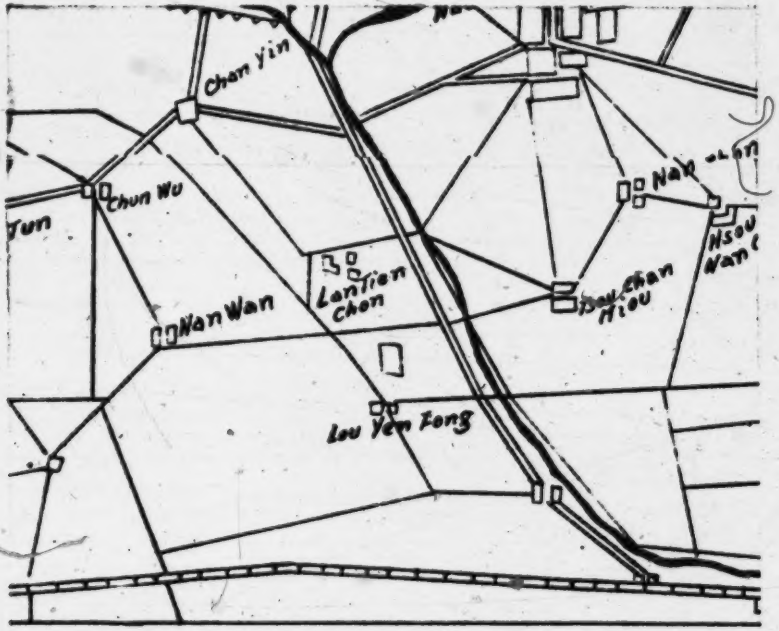

River — Village

Mountain — Bridge

Walls — City gate

[End Flap map N]

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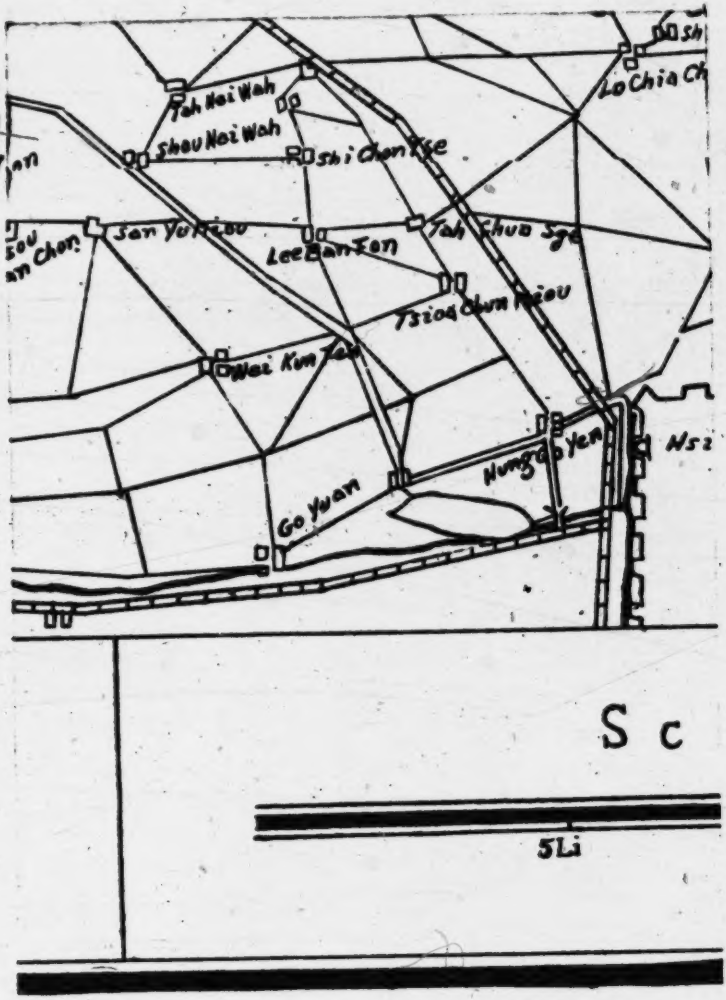

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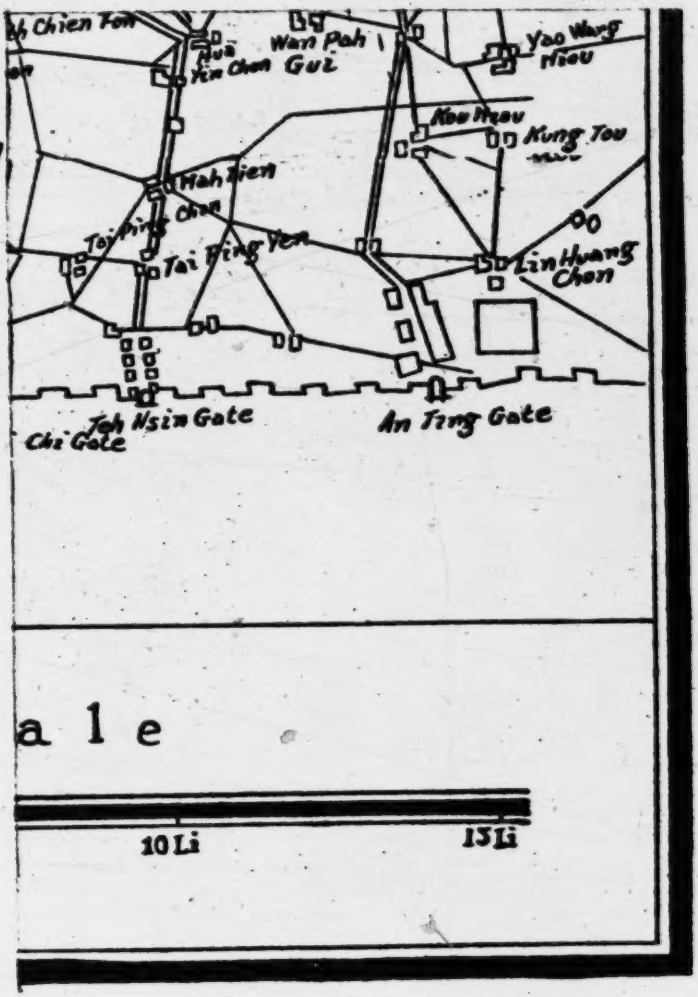

[End Flap map P]